Statement by the Hon'ble Speaker re: the demise of Sri L. Vema Reddy.

Mr. SPEAKER (The Hon'ble Sri V. Venkatappa).—It is with deep regret that I have to announce to the House the demise of Sri L. Vema Reddy on the 29th day of March 1951. He was for a number of years a member of the Mysore Representative Assembly and took considerable interest in public affairs. On behalf of the House I desire to express the sense of loss we have sustained and our sympathy with the relatives of the deceased.

RESOLUTIONS.

Mr. SPEAKER (The Hon'ble Sri V. Venkatappa).—Now, Resolutions will be taken up.

RESOLUTION No. 1.

Plea for raising Dearness Allowance to the non-Gazetted Staff.

Sri D. H. CHANDRASEKHARAIYA (Chitaldrug District—General).—Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Resolution which stands in my name reads as follows :

"This Assembly is of the opinion that the existing rates of Dearness Allowance be raised by 50 per cent in the case of all non-gazetted staff to relieve them of the misery and hardship to which they have been put on account of the abnormal rise in the cost of living".

I move the resolution. I am so happy that I have got an opportunity to speak for and on behalf of the non-gazetted officers who form the backbone of the Government service and are found to be patiently toiling in the several offices of the State. Let me, at the outset, make it perfectly clear that in moving this resolution I have no intention to cause any embarrassment to the Government. All that I sincerely and solely desire is to draw the kind attention of the Government to the extremely hard and trying times through which these non-gazetted officers are passing and also to make out a case, if I can, for granting them further relief by way of dearness allowance. It is a wellknown fact that these subordinate ranks form the bedrock of the administration and play a very vital part in helping the Government in carrying on their policies and measures in everyday administration. It is therefore up to the Government to keep these ranks peaceful and contended in order that the administration may be run smoothly and efficiently.

It is worthwhile knowing something of the position of these subordinate ranks in the present state of disturbed economy. As we know during the past 10 years the country has been suffering from acute economic unstability. Scarcity of food and other necessaries of life and the soaring price levels have become the order of the day. An U. N. survey recently published shows that our cost of living has gone up to 300 per cent over the war level and the food prices have increased by 350 per cent. The Government of India and other State Governments have been not able to check and stabilise the prices of essential commodities. On account of this, the lower middle classes among whom the non-gazetted officials may be counted, are hardest hit and their staying power has been completely broken down. These officials have to depend mainly on their salary and allowances and generally they have no other sources of income. Apart from the Government work to which they stand committed they cannot think of any other occupation to augment their resources. Out of their limited income they have to meet several items of expenditure like house rent, insurance, rations and other necessaries of life, fuel, milk, curds, vegetables, clothing, medicine, education of children, light and water charges and Municipal taxes. None of these items can be dispensed with. A local daily 'Prajavani' has been publishing very interesting accounts of the family budgets, as given out by the officials themselves, during the last few days. I hope Honourable Members of this House have read these accounts which are very distressing indeed. I am sure that from the information furnished every one will feel convinced